



*Arnold Schwarzenegger,
Governor
Alex Reid, Commission Chair
Marie Moretti, Executive Director*

**August 2004
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News From the Team

**From Adam Sutkus,
Citizen Corps Program Director**

This last month involved a national conference on Citizen Corps, a national conference on Medical Reserve Corps, the release of the California Performance Review, and the signing of the budget. In addition, the security threat level was increased in parts of the U.S. To say it has been a busy period is an understatement. We have included here several briefings on these and other current events for your information.

Among all of this internal and external change, we want to thank everyone for their continued work towards better preparing California for disasters and emergencies -- when all is said and done, what we do every day in our homes and communities is what counts the most for our collective readiness and safety.

CERT Update

State CERT Workgroup: The California State CERT Workgroup completed their work on the *T4: CERT Program Manager Academy* curriculum during a planning conference in Morro Bay in late July. Members of the group were recognized with a personal Letter of Appreciation from Governor Schwarzenegger which was presented by GO SERV Commissioner Ann Marie Occhipinti. This group has done great things for California's Statewide CERT program. A more passionate group of people is hard to find. The following members were recognized for their work as T4 Trainers:

Barbara Cimino
Palo Alto OES, Palo Alto
Neighborhood Disaster Activity

Chief Brian Waterbury
San Rafael Fire Department,

DART Program

Denny Neville
Rancho Santa Fe CERT Program

Bob Newman
Cambria CERT Program

Anthony Coletta
Riverside County OES
CERT Program

Marsha Hovey
Cupertino OES CERT Program

William McCloud
Los Angeles County Fire Department
CERT Program

Pamela Nishimoto
Ventura County Sheriff's Department,
OES CERT Program

Chris Wright
BICEPP

The Workgroup also welcomed its newest member, Renee Johnston, from the City of Stockton Office of Volunteer Services.

T4: CERT Program Manager's Academy: The first *T4: CERT Program Manager's Academy* will be presented in Temecula, Riverside County August 25-26. This course is presented by the California State CERT Working Group.

What Will Be Presented? The purpose of the course is to assist CERT Program Managers to start, develop, enhance and expand CERT programs in their jurisdiction. Instruction will focus on each phase of a program and the following subject discussions: Program management; Retention of trained members; CERT program budgeting; Effective graduations; Advertising and marketing CERT; Instructor techniques; and, Refresher training and exercises. The basic CERT material will not be presented as it will be assumed that Program Manager Nominees have a high level of understanding of the subject matter.

Who Should Attend the Training?
This course is reserved for individuals who: 1) Are or will be a CERT Program Manager in their community; 2) Are nominated by their Operational Area's CERT Coordinator; 3) Have successfully completed a CERT T-T-T course at the national, state or local level. Priority will be given to individuals nominated by counties that do not yet have a CERT program.

Nominations for attendance to the *T4: CERT Program Manager Academy* will be the responsibility of all Operational Area CERT coordinators. To register for this class please contact your Operational Area CERT Program contact.

The final date for Operational Area CERT points-of-contact to submit nominees for this class to GO SERV is August 17th, 2004. Nominations and any questions should be sent by e-mail to:

Jeffrey Deutschman

jeff.deutschman@GOSERV.CA.GOV

Phone: (916) 322-4446

Once the list of candidates is confirmed, additional information about the course content, schedule and location will be provided directly to the candidates.

Cost: There is no charge for the training. The course is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Operational Areas with GO SERV CERT grants may use these funds to pay for travel related costs. Counties that do not have GO SERV grants are responsible for these costs.

Future *T4: CERT Program Manager Academy* courses will be conducted in San Jose on September 22-23, in Fresno on October 27-28, in Los Angeles on December 1-2, 2004.

CERT IN ACTION:

Nest Activation: The Mendocino County South Coast Neighborhood

Emergency Services Team (NEST) was activated at 1500 hrs. 2 August 2004 at the request of the Mendocino Emergency Services Authority (MESA).

A truck containing canisters of assorted hazardous materials went over the side on State Route 1 near Albion. The highway was blocked and an evacuation was ordered. One site selected for collecting victims could not be staffed by first responder agencies or the American Red Cross. Members of the South Coast NEST responded to the potential shelter site and maintained a vigil until released by MESA.

During the event, approximately 100 residents were evacuated. The American Red Cross, assisted by the Department of Social Services and the NEST/CERT coordinator responded to the needs of the evacuees.

Foothill Fire and CERT: During the recent Foothill Fire in Santa Clarita, two CERT homeowners in the Sand Canyon area applied their skills by assisting their neighborhood evacuees out of the canyon, reminding evacuees what supplies to evacuate with, coordinating horse trailers, and providing directions on alternate routes out of Santa Clarita. These CERT members chose not to evacuate right away, in order to assist first responders. They let deputies know what they were doing to make sure that they would not be impacting other issues that might be taking place.

CERT WUI: Kurt Latipow, Fire Chief Ukiah Fire Department presented his taskforce's completed work on the Wildland Urban Interface Module for the Basic CERT Course at a full FIREScope meeting on July 14. Not only did FIREScope officially endorse the module but they authorized use of the FIREScope logo on the presentation material. This course will be an advanced level course for CERT programs located in fire prone wild land areas.

Denny Neville, CERT program coordinator from Rancho Santa Fe and Bob Newman CERT Coordinator for Cambria presented the WUI Module to the Statewide CERT Workgroup at the conference in Morro Bay on July 27th. Kurt Latipow (Ukiah Fire Department), Bob Newman (San Luis Obispo County), Denny Neville, (Rancho Santa Fe) and Rich Just (former CDF) are all on the WUI Taskforce.

Thanks to everyone's great work and Kurt's leadership on the effort.

The Last CERT TTT

The last GOSERV sponsored CERT Train-the-Trainer graduated 25 new CERT instructors in Ventura County. The Ventura County Sheriff's Department OES, Ventura County CERT/DART Coordinators Group USAR , Ventura County Fire Dept Technical Rescue, Thousand Oaks DART, Ventura County Fire Department, Ventura County American Red Cross, Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Foundation

A special thank goes to Pamela Nishimoto of Ventura County Sheriff's Department OES for her fine work coordinating the many groups that help support this climatic event.

Barbara Cimino of the Palo Alto Neighborhood Disaster Activity was the lead trainer and did an outstanding job ensuring some great CERT knowledge was imparted upon our newest CERT instructors. This was also the first time a class was co-taught with a CERT Volunteer, Paul Lufkin of the PANDA. Both Paul and Barbara should be commended for their outstanding work planning, conducting, and leading this course. Their devotion to the CERT Program exemplifies professionalism in every sense of the word.

Update on FY 2003 CERT Grant Second Quarter Progress Report

The FY 03 CERT Second Quarter Progress Report for the performance

period April 1 – June 30, 2004 was due July 15, 2004. Thank you to those who had submitted them on time. We are now in the 3rd quarter, please keep in mind that the next report will be due on October 15th, 2004.

Annual Conference in Denver

The National Citizen Corps conference brought to Denver the points-of-contacts from all states and territories, national affiliate programs, and federal agencies involved with the national Citizen Corps Program. A parade of presentations and workgroup sessions made this training conference a valuable event for everyone attending. Some of the highlights relevant to all of us in California are listed below:

- **Fire Corps.** The new Fire Corps--similar to the VIPS program in Law Enforcement--is currently under design and will likely be rolled out in September. The major Fire and Rescue national organizations have endorsed the program to create a volunteer cadre of citizens to support the fire/rescue service and allow trained firefighters to concentrate on their most vital roles.
- **Liability for Volunteers.** A lively discussion left everyone clear that this is a key issue in the emergency volunteer field. Many issues were addressed: Is there really a problem or is the perception of liability driving the concern? Should there be federal leadership in this area through legislation or should this be left to the states to address individually? The Public Entity Risk Institute led the discussion and addressed many of the questions by the state and locals present; it also became evident that the Medical Reserve Corps program--and the concerns of doctors and other health professionals--is driving the main elements of the debate, which will benefit all programs.

- **Engaging Affiliate Programs.** From the Jaycees to the Veterans of Foreign Wars to the national VOAD--there are many ways to coordinate with national partners that are located at the community level for the benefit of neighborhood preparedness. The central issue raised at the national conference was: How can local programs truly utilize and partner with these groups? A lack of transferring the laudable goals articulated in national agreements to "on the ground" projects was identified. Future work will be targeted to rectify this situation.
- **Web Site Enhancements.** One of the best pieces of news is the growing usefulness of the federal website. The Citizen Corps staff and consultants have done a terrific job of making the site more user-friendly. One example is a feature soon to be available to California--a "bulletin board" tailored to our state where Citizen Corps programs can interact regularly. Also, new mapping technologies are now able to allow local and state Citizen Corps programs to show growth and success. GO SERV is collecting and evaluating these tools; we will make more information available soon.
- **Data Collection.** Together with the grants staff at the Office of Domestic Preparedness, the federal Citizen Corps team heard from the states and the concern about regular, consistent, standardized data collection needs. To make data collection that shows progress easier to gather, there is a movement to design the single State Authorized Agent (SAA) reporting tool for the states in a fashion that supports Citizen Corps information gathering goals. GO SERV will continue to work with our federal partners to simplify this process to the greatest extent possible--for this and future years.
- **Media Support Tools.** Through the Advertising Council, several

tools are expected to be made available in conjunction with September's National Preparedness month. Please keep checking the national website for access to these tools.

VIPS—Special Thanks

Special thanks to the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department's Volunteers In Police Service (VIPS) program. Several VIPS volunteers helped us to make hundreds of telephone calls to complete our survey of local law enforcement agencies across California. Thanks to Lt. Paul Tassone – commander of the Volunteer Services Bureau for his support in making this happen!

August Featured Link: Law Enforcement Support

Please find the below link to the National Association of Citizens on Patrol newsletter, "Eyes and Ears" now available online. Feel free to view, print and share it with others. Contact information for follow-up is Mr. Art Femister, President and Founder. Enjoy!

<http://nacop.org/newsletters.htm>

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Be Seen. Be Heard. Make a Difference.

Legislative Update

Homeland Security Appropriations.

CONGRESS ADJOURNS FOR
AUGUST, HOMELAND SECURITY
BILL STILL AWAITING
CONSIDERATION

Last Friday, Congress adjourned until September 7, 2004 for the traditional August recess and the political conventions. Before leaving, little action occurred on major legislation impacting emergency management and homeland security. The Senate has yet to consider the appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security (S. 2537) on the floor. Consideration began and was halted on legislation to authorize the Department of Homeland Security (H.R. 4852) in the House Select Committee on Homeland Security because of more than 70 amendments proposed to the bill. Also, negotiations to finalize the version of the Cox-Turner legislation (H.R. 3266) are continuing over the August recess and staff hopes to bring the bill to the House floor in September. With little action on these major bills, September becomes an increasingly important legislative month for the Congress. Appropriations leaders are already considering an omnibus package or several combined appropriations bills for consideration to avoid continuing resolutions before the November elections.

As a reminder: Currently the House passed a version of Citizen Corps appropriations at \$20M nationally; the Senate passed out of committee a version at \$30M nationally. The original proposal by the Administration was \$50M nationally. If a compromise in conference committee were to split the difference between the House and Senate versions, this would result in a 50% cut in Citizen Corps'--the only dedicated community-based homeland security program--from original '05 proposals. The impact to local preparedness programs could be severe in California and nation-wide. GO SERV is monitoring developments closely.

9/11 Commission Recommendations Could Affect First Responders

The recommendations from the 9/11 Commission Report suggests changes be made to the Department of

Homeland Security's grant funding formula directed at state and local first responders. The Commission recommended that Homeland Security assistance should be based strictly on an assessment of risks and vulnerability with Washington, D.C. and New York City at the top of the list. The recommended assessment would include such factors as population, population density, vulnerability, and the presence of critical infrastructure within each state. The Commission stated that each state receiving federal emergency preparedness funds should provide a similar assessment to justify the distribution of funds in their state.

The Commission also reported that the 9/11 attacks demonstrated that even the most robust emergency response capabilities could become overwhelmed in a large-scale event. The Commission recommended that all emergency response agencies adopt the Incident Command System, and adopt a unified command. The Commission suggested that mutual aid compacts should be established between first responder jurisdictions to ensure that first responders receive the necessary resources.

The Commission identified the inability of emergency responders to communicate as a critical element in the relief and rescue efforts at the World Trade Center, Pentagon, and Pennsylvania crash sites. The Commission recommended that Congress support pending legislation, which provides for the expedited and increased assignment of radio spectrum for public safety purposes. The Commission also suggested that high-risk areas should consider establishing a system to ensure communications connectivity between all first responders. The Senate Committee on Government Affairs has scheduled hearings to examine the 9/11 Commission's recommendations. The House Committee has also scheduled similar hearings; these events are expected throughout the August congressional recess.

Medical Reserve Corps News

Medical Reserve Corps

The many California MRC leaders who attended the National MRC Leadership Conference in Baltimore July 7 – 9th were treated to a very well-run & highly successful conference. There was a wealth of information shared and much networking done.

The Conference started off with an inspiring speech by Surgeon General Richard Carmona and closed with a speech by Deputy Surgeon General Kenneth Moritsugu. National MRC Program Director Rob Tosatto (CDR, USPHS) came fresh from surgery on a torn meniscus (knee cartilage) to preside over the conference.

The three days were packed with presentations from experts in the fields of liability, volunteer relations, and emergency preparedness as well as presentations from local units describing their different organizational models, how they handle liability, credentialing, training & other volunteer services and volunteer relations. Dr. Ray Goodman presented the Los Angeles County Medical Reserve Corps' education program to a rapt audience and Sherrill Reed gave a presentation on California's efforts toward statewide coordination. Cee Cee Molineaux provided an overview of the Corporation for National and Community Service and Elizabeth DiGregorio, National Director of the Citizen Corps Program, presented an overview of Citizen Corps. Vince Talucci from Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS), Sam Isenberger from FEMA and Phil Merkel from the Department of Justice more fully explaining their individual programs. In addition we had break-out sessions with our Regional Health Administrators. Dr. Ronald Banks (Region IX Health Administrator out of San Francisco) introduced himself and described how he fit in to the program. Other Californians present were Marsha Hovey from the City of

Cupertino MRC, Carla Glazebrook and Dr. William Carveth from the City of Fresno MRC, John Hill from San Diego County MRC, Dr. Frank Randolph from San Bernardino County MRC, Stacy Deeble-Reynolds from Beach Cities Health District MRC, Dr. Ray Goodman from the MRC of Los Angeles, Karen Sampson from Tahoe Forest MRC and our "honorary Californian" Paula Martel from Las Vegas (Clark County, Nevada MRC).

We welcome a new addition to our California MRC Roster – Malibu Medical Reserve Corps (Dr. Victor Dorodny, Director). Also congratulations to three units that are newly registered with the National Office: Orange County Medical Reserve Corps (Herb Rosenzweig, Director and Vicki Bowman, Coordinator), City of Stockton Medical CERT Branch (Renee Johnston, Coordinator), and Woodside Medical Reserve Corps (Dr. Eric L. Weiss, Coordinator).

The next "All Cal MRC" Conference Call is scheduled for August 25th. Please contact Sherrill Reed (916-322-4336 or sherrill.reed@emsa.ca.gov) if interested in joining our group.

Also, Dr. Ray Goodman will be interviewed on National Public Radio KPCC to discuss the role of Medical Reserve Corps in disaster Preparedness. Please tune in on August 5th at 11:30 AM PST.

2004 CCP Grant Implementation Update.

Now that we are many months into the 2004 grant performance period, GO SERV will be releasing an implementation update letter by the end of August. In the letter we will describe the status of the local volunteer management plan development process that many of you participated in; some revised dates and clarification on some deliverables as well as future plans for local technical assistance.

NOTE TO GRANTEEES

The Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism will not process requests for reimbursement from grantees that are out of compliance. The most common compliance issue is outstanding progress reports.

FAQS

Grantee Information

Q. Where can I find the Invoice Instructions, Instructions and Forms, Expense Reports and Budget Revision Form for the 2002 Citizen Corps and CERT Grants?

- A. 1. Go to www.goserv.ca.gov.
2. On left side of the homepage click **Grantee Central**.
3. Enter password "service2others" and then click login.
4. On the left side you will see a menu of items under **Grantee Central**. Click on **Citizen Corps**.
5. You will see the message "Welcome to the Citizen Corps section of Grantee Central! Use the tabs above to navigate through this section of the website."
6. Click on the tab labeled **2002 Forms**. The "Invoicing Instructions and Forms," the "Budget Revision Instructions and Form," and the "2002 Grant Closeout Form" can be found here.

Q. When can my agency/organization incur expenses for the 2003 CERT Grants?

- A. Your agency/organization can only incur expenses during the contract term. The 2003 CERT contract term is: December 5, 2003 – December 4, 2004.

Q. Where can I find the 2003 CERT Grant Invoice Instructions, Invoice Form, Expense Report

Form and the Budget Revision Form?

- A. 1. Go to www.goserv.ca.gov.
2. On left hand side click on Grantee Central.
3. Enter password: and then click login.
4. On the left hand side you will see a menu of items under Grantee Central. Click on Citizen Corps.
5. You will see the message "Welcome to the Citizen Corps section of Grantee Central! Use the tabs above to navigate through this section of the website."
6. Click on the tab labeled 2003 Forms. The "Invoicing Instructions and Forms", and the "Budget Revision Instructions and Form can be found here.

Q. Where can I get answers on specific fiscal & application issues on the 2004 Citizen Corps now underway?

- A. You may contact the Governor's Office of Emergency Services Grant Management Section. Phone: (916) 845-8110 Grant Technical Assistance line. Fax: (916) 845-8384. Email: Grant.Management@oes.ca.gov

Citizens Corps Contact:

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